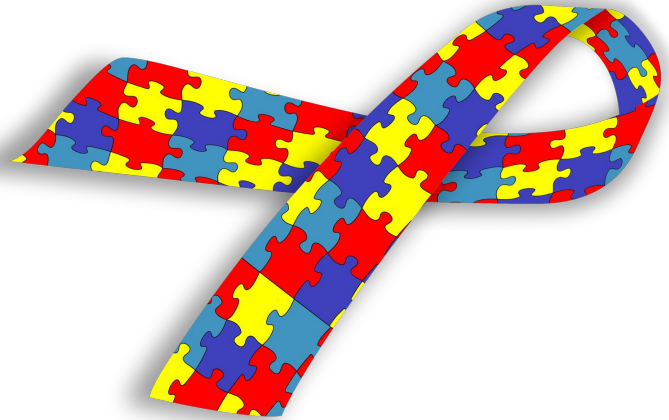


# *Dispelling The Myths*

**Jada Martin**

# Introduction

I chose to do a presentation on Autism awareness because I wanted to define Autism in a more human way and I became interested in learning more about Autism because during my junior year I was a intern at The Center for Autism and I had a wonderful experience. Before I started my internship there I was a little nervous because I didn't know what to expect. I thought the kids were going to be nerve-racking. I got to build relationships with the students and in a way I felt so happy being around them. As I learned more about Autism I realized not enough people are aware about it and a lot of people have this stereotype about autistic children which is not true.



Does anyone know what Autism is?

*Going out and exploring the  
assumptions*



# Myths

- People with Autism like to be alone.
- They act out (can't control emotions)
- People with Autism are intellectually disabled.
- Autism comes from bad parenting

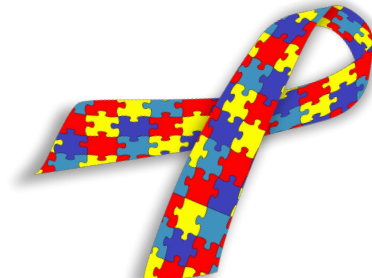




# What is Autism & the cause ?

A mental condition, present from early childhood, characterized by difficulty in communicating and forming relationships with other people and in using language and abstract concepts.

There is no one cause of autism just as there is no one type of autism. Over the last five years, scientists have identified a number of rare gene changes, or mutations, associated with autism. A small number of these are sufficient to cause autism by themselves. Most cases of autism, however, appear to be caused by a combination of autism risk genes and environmental factors influencing early brain development.



# Did You Know?

## Early signs of Autism

- Delayed or lack of speech
- Repetitive movements from body
- Impaired social skills

Autism affects boys 3-4 times more than girls.

Sensitive to sight, hearing, touch, and smell

Autism is a neurological/biological disorder, not a psychological or emotional condition.

The features, abilities and severity of symptoms vary considerably among people with autism.

About 1 percent of the world population has autism spectrum disorder.

# Autism Spectrum Disorders

## **Autistic Disorder** (also called "classic" autism)

- This is what most people think of when hearing the word "autism." People with autistic disorder usually have significant language delays, social and communication challenges, and unusual behaviors and interests. Many people with autistic disorder also have intellectual disability.

## **Asperger Syndrome**

- People with Asperger syndrome usually have some milder symptoms of autistic disorder. They might have social challenges and unusual behaviors and interests. However, they typically do not have problems with language or intellectual disability.

## **Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS; also called "atypical autism")**

- People who meet some of the criteria for autistic disorder or Asperger syndrome, but not all, may be diagnosed with PDD-NOS. People with PDD-NOS usually have fewer and milder symptoms than those with autistic disorder. The symptoms might cause only social and communication challenges.



**People who have been affected  
by Autism**

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**Keanu Saulsberry '16**

Brayden '5



# How Can We Support People With Autism?

A person with autism can have exceptional abilities. It is important to think of him or her as intelligent, even if language or behavioral difficulties do not reveal this in the way you expect.

## **Be Welcoming**

Meet the child where he is and learn from him.

Respect him as an individual.

Do not talk about him in his presence as if he isn't there.

## **Educate and Communicate**

Educate other youth participants about autism.

Promote acceptance and understanding among peers.

Support social development with role-playing, modeling, and rewards.

Always keep learning and be creative.



One last message . . .



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